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CURRENT LITERATURE.

MINOR NOTICES.

The algae.—The second volume of OLTMANNS' large work on the algae has appeared.[1] This part treats of a variety of general topics, the first volume having been devoted especially to the different groups. Among the subjects are the algal cell, the development of reproductive organs, the nourishment of algae, life conditions, response to stimuli, polymorphism, life histories, adaptations, and a discussion of methods of collection, study, and culture. The two volumes give an excellent digest of the large literature in phycology and will prove very valuable as the starting point for many lines of further advance. Some of OLTMANNS' views, as for example that of the place of the tetraspore in the life history of red algae, are not likely to be sustained, but the work is a very scholarly contribution to botanical science and will be welcomed as the only publication of its class in the field of phycology.—B. M. DAVIS.

North American Flora.[2]—The general character and scope of this great work were stated in this journal in connection with the appearance of the first part.[3] Another part has now appeared, being a direct continuation of the former one, and both belong to volume 22 in the general scheme.

Saxifragaceae.—*Conimitella*, *Elmera*, and *Ocrearia* are established as new genera, and 30 other genera are recognized; new species are described under Lithophragma (8), Tellima, Mitella (2), Pectiantia, Ozomelis, Heuchera (25), Sullivantia, Therophon (3), Saxifraga, Muscaria (4), Micranthes (12), Spatularia, Leptasea (3), and Heterisia.

Hydrangeaceae.—*Neodeutzia* is established as a new genus, and 9 other genera are recognized; new species are described under Philadelphus (11) and Edwinia (2).—J. M. C.

Philippine plants.—Recent bulletins (nos. 29 and 35) from the Bureau of Government Laboratories show commendable activity in the study of Philippine plants. ELMER D. MERRILL, botanist of the laboratory, is publishing a series of papers on new or noteworthy plants, the third and fourth papers appearing

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[1] OLTMANNS, F., Morphologie und Biologie der Algen. Zweiter Band. Allgemeiner Teil. 8vo. pp. vi+443. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1905. *M* 12.

[2] North American Flora. Vol. 22. Part 2. Saxifragaceae, Hydrangeaceae, JOHN KUNKEL SMALL, PER AXEL RYDBERG. Cunoniaceae, Iteaceae, Hamamelidaceae, NATHANIEL LORD BRITTON. Petrostemonaceae, PERCY WILSON. Phyllonomaceae, HENRY HURD RUSBY. 8vo. pp. 81–191. New York: The New York Botanical Garden. December 18, 1905. Subscription price $1.50 for each part.

[3] BOT. GAZETTE **40**:74. 1905.